

INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES & LIVEABLE CITIES (ISILC)

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

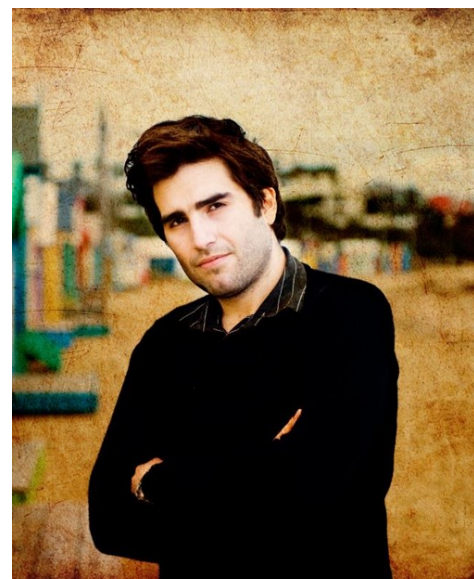
Fire Testing Facility Wins National Recognition

The University's Fire Testing Facility at Werribee campus has been awarded accreditation by the National Association of Testing Australia (NATA). This recognition caps many years of work by fire researchers at Victoria University, including that of Associate Professor **Maurice Guerrieri**.



Shrine of Remembrance [SOURCE: Maurice Guerrieri on Flickr]

Fire is a big part of Maurice Guerrieri's life, as suggested by his dramatic photograph of the Eternal Flame at Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance. Photography is one of his private passions.

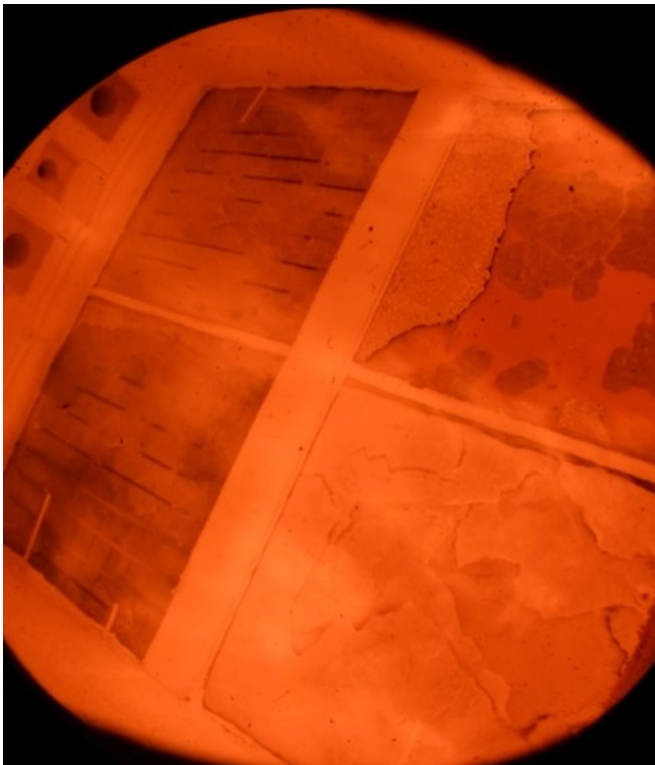


Associate Professor Maurice Guerrieri
[SOURCE: SUPPLIED]

Continued from page 1

This fire testing facility is one of a kind, and will be available for researchers from across Australia.

On 10 May a workshop providing a full in-depth presentation of the facility was held at Werribee campus to showcase the facility to a wider audience.



A live feed from within the furnace is supplied by an endoscope sourced from France by Maurice Guerrieri, purchased via the University's internal Planetary Health funding [SOURCE: SUPPLIED]



Four flat panels after fire testing [SOURCE: SUPPLIED]



Business card logo of Maurice Guerrieri, a composite of planetary health, smart cities, and ISILC [SOURCE: SUPPLIED]

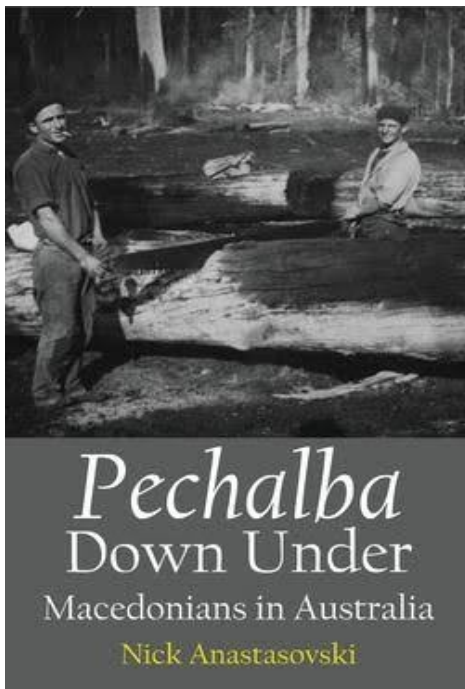


Logo of the National Association of Testing Authorities [SOURCE: NATA]

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

A New History of the Macedonians in Australia

The latest book by alumnus Dr **Nick Anastasovski** documents the story of one of Australia's significant but least-understood minorities. *Pechalba* is the Macedonian term for men travelling without their families in search of work around the world.



The book was launched by **Robert Pascoe** at the University's Kindred Studio in Yarraville on 21 April. Published by another alumnus, Dr **Anthony Cappello**, *Pechalba Down Under* can be purchased online from Connor Court.

Pascoe: 'Macedonians declared themselves pechalba: "I stand here, ready to work and earn whatever I can for my family". Done well,

migrant history offers a mirror to the host society, reflecting in another language, and from a fresh perspective, aspects of its national history that are perhaps less historiographically stable than most mainstream historians imagine.'

Anastasovski made extensive use of oral history and Facebook in researching his latest book: 'I heard about joy and happiness, pain and sadness, endurance, patience and strength, love for family and country, and how they could not freely express their identity back in their villages, but they could do so here in Australia. I heard about the joy of rebuilding Macedonia in Australia, the satisfaction of building churches and clubs and cultural centres. It was an enriching experience and a privilege to hear their life stories.'

“

UNLIKE OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS WE DID NOT HAVE A HOME COUNTRY TO CARE FOR AND SUPPORT US, SO IT WAS LEFT TO OUR PEOPLE TO LOOK OUT FOR THEMSELVES – AND UNFORTUNATELY THE SITUATION REMAINS SIMILAR TODAY – BUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I THINK WE HAVE DONE WELL

”

A second launch will be held at Il Gambero restaurant, 166 Lygon Street, Carlton, Tuesday evening, 25 May, starting at 6:00 pm.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/launch-of-pechalba-down-under-macedonians-in-australia-tickets-153744252197>

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

A View of Trump In Amercia's Decaying Heartland — John Tully

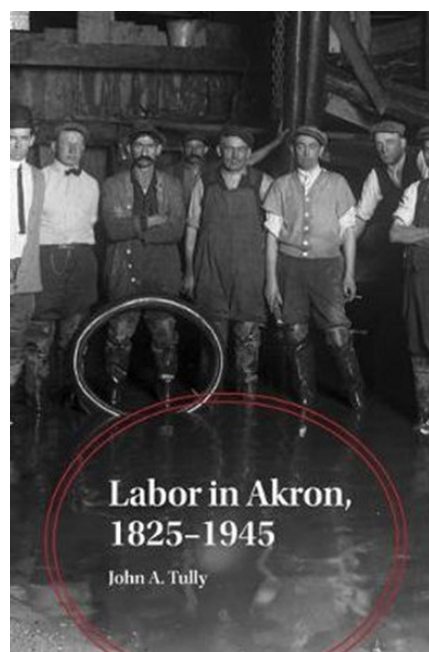
Akron, like the neighbouring Ohio cities of Cleveland, Youngstown, and Canton, was once a thriving centre of the Midwest industrial heartland. Cleveland meant iron and steel; Akron was synonymous with rubber manufacturing. Three of the world's first multinational corporations – Firestone, Goodyear, and B.F. Goodrich – began life in the city and spread around the entire world.

Alas, the city's rubber industry today is a shadow of what it was, and the region is part of the great American industrial rustbelt.

In the 1930s, Akron was a stronghold of the militant Congress of Industrial Organizations and its rubber workers reinvented the sit-down strike in a desperate struggle against tight-fisted employers determined to keep the open shop. My new book, *Labor in Akron, 1825-1945* (University of Akron Press), traces the history of Akron's trade unions from the city's earliest days to 1945, by which time the giant rubber factories were completely unionised.

My book also examines how Akron became a bastion of the left-wing Farmer Labor Party, strongly backed by the city's CIO unions, in the same period. For better or worse (the latter, I argue) the FLP perished, and the city's unions fell in behind the Democratic Party and Akron has remained 'blue' ever since.

The city's voters rejected the Trump cult in 2016 and 2020, but its progressive voters have good reason to feel beleaguered. When I was visiting the city in late 2018, one of the women staffers in my local supermarket smiled wistfully when I told her I was leaving for Canada the next day.



'Gee, I wish I was going to Canada,' she said.

'Oh, why's that?' I asked.

'Because of *him!*' she replied in the way that superstitious people in times past would not mention the Devil by name.

I was in no doubt who she meant and could sympathise. 'South of Canton,' says my friend Noah Carmichael, Akron organiser for the Bricklayers' Union, 'is all solidly Republican territory.'

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Indeed, it is. In 2020, Trump won 53.3 per cent of the Ohio vote, compared to 45.3 for Joe Biden. Only eight of Ohio's 88 counties voted majority Democrat in the 2016 and 2020 Presidential elections. One of the eight is Summit County, of which Akron is the county seat, which voted 53.92 per cent for Biden. I haven't a breakdown of votes by ward to hand, but it seems clear that Biden won convincingly in the city, whereas Trump had the edge in the county's rural hinterland. The more heavily urban Cuyahoga County, which includes Cleveland, voted 66.36 per cent for Biden.

My Akron friends would have breathed a whole lot easier when the Electoral College votes were ratified, the howling mob of Trumpsters were removed from the Capitol, and the 'inciter-in-chief' was packed off to Mar-a-Lago.

John Tully is an Honorary Professor/Educator in the College of Arts and Education

NEW BOOK

Labor in Akron, Ohio, 1825-1945 (Akron, Ohio: University of Akron Press, 2021).

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

On an Alien Shore (Hybrid Publishers, Melbourne, 2019)

'Cambodia in the Nineteenth Century: Out of the French Frying Pan and Into the French Fire?' in T. O. Smith (ed.) *Cambodia and the West, 1500-2000* (Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2018)

'Modern Cambodia Since 1863', Oxford Research Encyclopedias, 2017

Crooked Deals and Broken Treaties: How White Settlers Displaced American Indians in the Cuyahoga Valley (New York University Press and Monthly Review Press, New York, 2016)

Robbed of Every Blessing (Hybrid Publishers, Melbourne: 2015)

Silvertown: The Lost Story of a Strike (Monthly Review Press and Lawrence & Wishart, New York and London 2014)

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Europe and Australia

THE EUROPEAN UNION RADICALISATION AWARENESS NETWORK (EU RAN) MEETS AUSTRALIAN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM EXPERTS

Since 2018, under the leadership of ISILC senior research fellow Dr **Virginie Andre**, Victoria University is increasingly recognised in Europe as an important applied research centre in the fields of prevention and countering of violent extremism (the acronym is P/CVE). Our P/CVE research program has the exceptional ability to effectively move research into policy and practice – that is, to translate knowledge to different target audiences and to develop evidence-based tools and practices

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for these audiences. The increasing collaborations over the last three years with EU institutions and key EU stakeholders are a testimony to this growing reputation in Europe.

On 23 and 24 September 2020, Dr Andre and Associate Professor **Debra Smith** hosted the first EU RAN digital study visit to Australia of 28 EU front line practitioners in countering violent extremism. The erstwhile ISILC Director Professor **Stephen Gray** welcomed the EU practitioners by emphasising how important these exchanges are to ensure the safeguard of our societies; even more so under the current Covid pandemic. During their visit, participants were able to gain insights into the Australian efforts in tackling far right extremism at the academic, policy-making and law enforcement levels. The 2019 Christchurch mosque attack highlighted how Australia shared similar terrorist threats as experienced in Europe.

In her opening address, Dr Andre recalled how when she first started to conduct research in Europe a decade ago, European practitioners and policy-makers were surprised, sometimes with disbelief, that Australia also experienced terrorism and violent extremism. Representatives from Victoria Police (VicPol) and other Australian front line practitioners from prisons and community spoke about the different CVE practices.

Particular interest was expressed in the Victorian model of collaboration between university, police and civil society actors in developing a case management tool currently used by prisons and law enforcement. The Australian multi-agency approach to CVE is one of the strengths of the

country's approach to CVE. Furthermore, the Victorian community approach to P/CVE triggered much attention from EU participants, as the involvement of religious communities in the field remains highly problematic in some parts of Europe. Australian Multicultural Foundation CEO **Hass Dellal** offered insights into community approaches in P/CVE in Victoria, particularly around youth and religious mentorship. VU senior research fellow Dr **Mario Peucker** spoke about the challenges and strategies in addressing far right extremism at the local government level in Victoria.

Australian front line practitioners were also particularly delighted to have the possibility to exchange with their EU colleagues on their approaches and best practices. Too often front line practitioners in this field feel that they work in silos. Exchanges like these are important as they support positive learning and potential change. VicPol's contribution to the program was remarkable both in the generosity and depth of their exchanges. This is a tribute to the long-standing professional relationship of trust between Victoria University's CVE research team and VicPol.

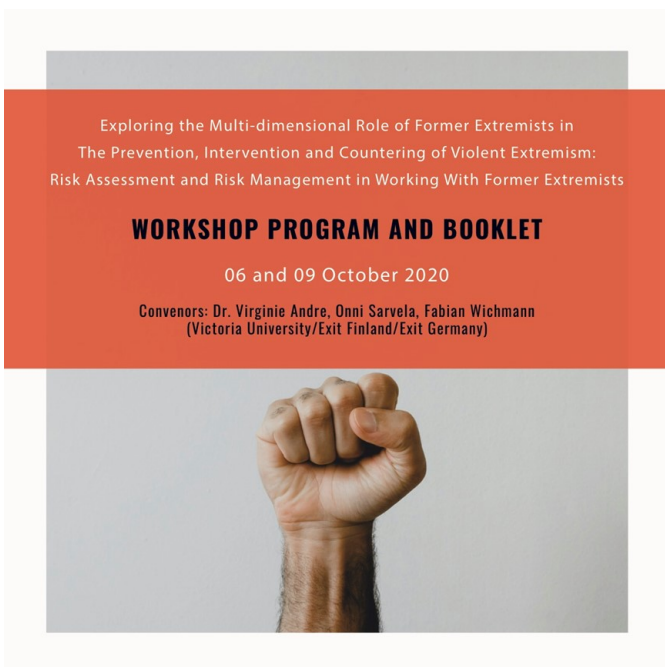
'This virtual study tour was successful for many reasons. The main one was that we finally had the opportunity to showcase Australian expertise and our successful approaches in effectively preventing and countering violent extremism. I also believe that our respect, celebration and active approach towards multiculturalism in Australia, which translates into unique multi-agency approaches and practices in the P/CVE field has

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the potential to benefit Europe. We have much to learn from each other', concluded Dr Andre.

CAN FORMER VIOLENT EXTREMISTS WORK WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE PREVENTION AND COUNTERING OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM?




Exploring the Multi-dimensional Role of Former Extremists in
The Prevention, Intervention and Countering of Violent Extremism:
Risk Assessment and Risk Management in Working With Former Extremists

WORKSHOP PROGRAM AND BOOKLET

06 and 09 October 2020

Convenors: Dr. Virginie Andre, Onni Sarvela, Fabian Wichmann
(Victoria University/Exit Finland/Exit Germany)



Following the first series of workshops on the 'Multi-Dimensional Role of Former Multi-dimensional Role of Former Extremists in The Prevention, Intervention and Countering of Violent Extremism (CVE)', organised earlier in 2020, a second online workshop was organised in partnership with Exit Germany (the deradicalisation program of Germany). Dr Virginie Andre (VU), **Onni Sarvela** (Exit Finland) and **Fabian Wichmann** (Exit Germany) convened this workshop on 6 and 9 October 2020. It focused

specifically on the risk assessment and risk management in working with former extremists. It brought together 27 front line practitioners and academics from Australia, Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Finland, Germany, Lebanon, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. This workshop gave a significant importance to law enforcement contributions as it aimed at generating understanding and exchanges around the challenges and benefits there may be for law enforcement to work with former extremists in this field. Participants had the opportunity to learn from the UK law enforcement experience in working with former extremists.

The workshop addressed two main questions:

- From a law enforcement point of view, are there any risk(s) associated with working with former extremists at different levels of intervention?
- What are the benefits and barriers of involving former extremists in law enforcement work?

Several law enforcement practitioners underlined that there is a political risk associated with working with former extremists. From a law enforcement point of view, political pressure and the need for confidence of this type of work makes risk management particularly difficult. There is a political concern about the risk of recidivism of former extremists and the implications this may have politically as well as for law enforcement. These concerns have been met with realities of recidivism and acts of violence in the attacks in Vienna (2020) and in London (2019 and 2020).

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The potential of former extremists to cause harm remains a reality. This highlights the importance of understanding at which point a former extremist within his/her disengagement journey can (or should) be involved in the prevention, intervention and countering of violent extremism.

While law enforcement practitioners identified several benefits in working with former extremists, it also poses challenges, as it requires for instance bureaucratic support and capability, which are often lacking, as well as proper training of police officers to work with former extremists. Police officers are not equipped to deal with biographical developments of formers and the spectrum of their journey. There are also significant issues of trust between law enforcement and former extremists, which brought the issue of trust building and validation. Unlike Exit practitioners, law enforcement practitioners pointed out that former extremists can only play a secondary role in countering violent extremism. This secondary role is envisaged as more of a consultative invisible role in a controlled environment. They are perceived as a valuable resource to help understand the dynamics and function of the groups and provide intelligence of the groups and their activities.

Overall, the workshop concluded that former extremists can play a role in the prevention, intervention and countering of violent extremism, and this at the different stages of their disengagement process but under certain conditions. Not all the former extremists can play a role equally; some are more able to use their biographical experience or their professional

experience to bring additional value in the work they do.

A final important point was made around the risk of recidivism of former extremists and the role media and communities can play in reducing this risk. In relation to media and former reintegration, a grassroots participant pointed out 'All we know of former extremists is what we hear in the media. We need to have more knowledge'. The main theme of the upcoming third online workshop to be held in April 2021 will focus on the relationship between communities and former extremists in P/CVE. The 2021 set up of an international network focusing on exit work and former extremists will also be discussed at the next workshop.



From a law enforcement point of view, are there any risk(s) associated with working with former extremists at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of intervention?

Media reporting of terrorism: Risk and impact in Countering Violent Extremism

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On 26 November 2020, Dr Virginie Andre together with Onni Sarvela (Exit Finland) delivered to 150 Finnish front-line practitioners a joint lecture on media reporting of terrorism and the risks and impact it may have on countering violent extremism efforts. The lecture focused on the effect that certain problematic media reporting of terrorism can instil a sense of alienation amongst certain communities and the more vulnerable youth, create polarisation and pathways to individual radicalisation. Dr Andre explained how the mistrust of media and government, particularly in the Covid era, has created an information vacuum which is being filled by various extremist narratives. She emphasized how vital it was for this vacuum to be filled with narratives that emanated from different key actors, including government, media, civil society, and communities. This lecture is part of an ongoing national project RadicalWeb led by the NGO Save the Children Finland in partnership with the University of Helsinki. Funded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, this initiative aims to build youth workers capacity to prevent and counter youth radicalisation in the online space.

More info: <https://www.pelastakaalapset.fi/kehittamis-ja-asiantuntijatyo/radicalweb-hanke/>

PREVIOUS STORIES:

- ONCE AN EXTREMIST? (AUGUST 2020)
- MEDIA REPORTS OF TERRORISM (APRIL 2020)
- CHANGE YOUR STORY (MARCH 2019)

Roan Plotz Joins in the Australia Day Debate

AUSTRALIA DAY: BRITISH TIES PERPETUATE A BLIND FOCUS ON ONE GROUP

The ongoing debate around the date of Australia Day highlights the importance of Australia becoming a republic. Whether we can admit it or not, January 26 was chosen to celebrate the arrival of white British colonists and the beginning of white Australia. While we remain tethered to Britain under a constitutional monarchy, we cannot truly examine an Australian national identity that celebrates a day for all its citizens.

Symbolism matters, and our current date and constitutional ties to Britain perpetuate a blind focus on the significance of one section of Australian society. This makes it harder for our First Nations people, and will who have come to these shores since, to recognise their contributions and feel acknowledged. What better way to reach a consensus for the date of Australia Day that this country officially becomes a modern, independent republic.

Finally, we would have a national day of celebration that resonates with all who live here.

Roan Plotz, Preston (Letter to *The Age*, 26 January 2021, p.18)

PREVIOUS STORIES:

- FRONT COVER (NOVEMBER 2019)
- TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF PACIFIC WEATHER (JULY 2019)

CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The Far Right in Australia

The debate on the Far Right in Australia has become mainstream news, with articles regularly appearing in *The Saturday Paper* (1-7 May; 6-12 March) that include long quotes from Dr **Mario Peucker**, Senior Research Fellow at ISILC.



Dr Mario Peucker [SOURCE: ISRA ACADEMY]

This debate is part of a wider international interest in how we define and deal with the Far Right. In recent months Dr Peucker has been invited to speak at two separate international conferences on his research into Muslim community activism and volunteering. On 1 December he presented on the topic, on '[Active citizenship and Islamic Ethos among Australian Muslims](#)' as part of an international seminar program 'Young, Muslim,

Engaged: Civil Engagement on global level', organised by the University of Osnabrück (Germany). He also spoke at the international symposium 'Cross-Border Philanthropy in the Islamic World: From Europe to Middle East and North Africa', held on 3 March at the Erasmus University Rotterdam (Netherlands). There his topic was 'Muslim intra-community engagement in Western (post)secular societies: Faith, republican contribution and counter-hegemonic spaces'.

During December Dr Peucker published two articles about selected findings of a recently concluded [VU study](#) on far-right dynamics on the local level, discussing on the role of local government and civil society in strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to radical-right mobilisation. One of the articles was published by on [Insights piece](#) by the Centre for Analysis of the Radical Right (CARR), and the second one was included as a [guest article](#) in the December newsletter of the Strong Cities Network.

Dr Peucker also published two articles, co-authored with Jacob Davey from the London-based Institute for Strategies Dialogue (ISD), drawing on their jointly led research project (within the [Centre for Resilient and Inclusive Societies](#)) on the interplay between far-right and radical left movements in Australia:

- [Does Australia's radical left pose a security threat? What the empirical evidence tells us](#), published on 15 December by ABC Religion and Ethics

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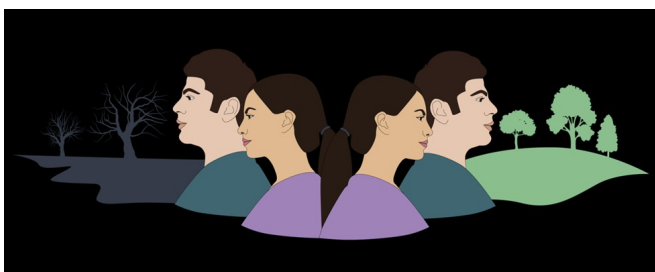
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- [How the Left and the Right Radicalize Each Other](#), published on 4 February by the Fair Observer

In early March, Dr Peucker published another article with the Fair Observer on the complex role that racism plays within far-right ideologies and movements ('correlation rather than causation') and the implication for anti-racism initiatives as part of a broader approach to prevent and countering right-wing extremism and radicalism.

<https://www.fairobserver.com/world-news/mario-peucker-radical-right-far-right-groups-white-supremacy-racism-world-news-69184/>

movements and radicalism in Australia. The submission was made in February.



The inter-play between far-right and radical left movements in Australia [SOURCE: CRIS]

He was also invited by the City of Maribyrnong to speak about his research on far-right mobilisation and threats on the local level and what local government can do to prevent and respond effectively to such divisive threats.

Dr Peucker was part of a team of experts who contributed to a CRIS submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security [Inquiry](#) into the extremist

INFRASTRUCTURE

International Symposium on Information Theory

The Organising Committee cordially invites you to participate in the 2021 IEEE International Symposium on Information Theory (ISIT 2021), 12-20 July 2021.

The ISIT is the premier international conference series dedicated to the advancement of information theory and related areas. It brings together an international community of researchers and practitioners each year to present and discuss new research results and perspectives on future developments relevant to all areas of information theory, including big data analytics, source and channel coding, communication theory and systems, cryptography and security, detection and estimation, emerging applications, networks, network coding, information theory, signal processing, and statistical/machine learning. Hosted by the IEEE Information Theory Society, ISIT 2021 will feature contributed papers, the Shannon lecture and plenary talks, as well as tutorial sessions.

The ISIT 2021 symposium will be an interactive virtual conference, where real-time online participation for all accepted papers is possible. To deliver a new experience for ISIT 2021 participants, exciting features on a state-of-the-art virtual platform will be provided. Plenaries and regular sessions will be recorded and kept on the platform for some time after the event. Exciting tutorials on state-of-the-art topics in information theory are included in registration. Participants will be able to arrange private meetings to discuss research and engage with each other. Interactive

social events will be available to encourage networking.

For more information, please visit the conference website: <https://2021.ieee-isit.org/>

A key player in this symposium is **Sardar ('Naz') Islam**, Victoria University Professor of Decision Sciences and Modelling Program. His areas of interest and expertise include Artificial Intelligence, Analytics, Machine Learning, Data Science, Blockchain, and Cybersecurity, including their Mathematics, and their applications in Business, Health, Engineering, Law, and Sports.



Professor Sardar ('Naz') Islam [SOURCE: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY]

Since 2019, Naz Islam has given seven international talks in China, Mauritius, India and Malaysia. His topics have ranged from Artificial Intelligence and game theory; Artificial Intelligence and the future of mankind; Artificial Intelligence and the emergence of FinTech; Artificial intelligence in Accounting and Finance; the applications of Artificial Intelligence in transport systems, and the future of mankind and the

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implications for university curriculum development. He is always keen to make new connections among his colleagues.

His email addresses are:

- Sardar M N Islam - Sardar.Islam@vu.edu.au
- Prof. Dr Sardar M. N. Islam / Naz profdrsardarmi@gmail.com while his direct line is : +61 3 99191338

Understanding the Tiny Pieces of Many Puzzles

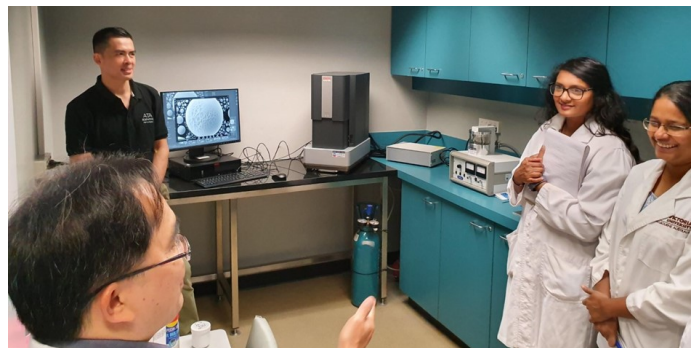
How do we design the ‘wearables’ that will transform medical diagnoses from hospital-centred to patient-centred? ‘Wearables’ are becoming better known in the public imagination as the future of medicine. We will soon all carry on our bodies devices that tell our carers what is going on inside us.

These devices are battery-free wireless antenna-based pressure sensors that provide ubiquitous real-time health monitoring. But how can these ‘wearables’ be designed in technologies that rely on thin films from traditional bulk metallic films or novel nanomaterials with an air-cavity design. One solution is three-dimensional porous gold nanowire foam–elastomer composite, fabricated by solution-based conformal electroless plating technology, encapsulated by elastomer.

That is one of the many uses to which the new Scanning Electron Microscope at Werribee

campus will be put. Its purchase was the brainchild of Associate Professor **Daniel Lai** and colleagues.

Meet the Tabletop Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) Phenom XL Gen2, the latest in microscopy which allows imaging of solid samples at sub-micron scales. Compared to standard floor-based SEMs that take up an entire room and costs millions, the tabletop SEM is the size of a large desktop PC with added ease of use.



Associate Professor Daniel Lai with colleagues celebrate the arrival of the new Scanning Electron Microscope at Werribee Campus [SOURCE: SUPPLIED]

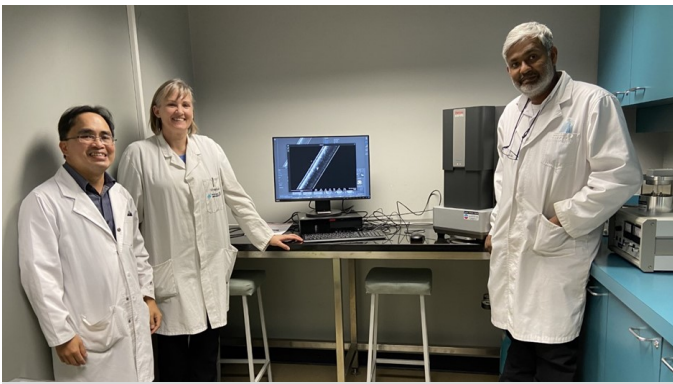
Boasting a <10nm resolution and 250,000 magnification, this tabletop SEM also comes with the following additional features: (1) Sputter coater for thin metal film deposition and improved imaging; (2) EDS for elemental analysis of samples; and (3) Tensile testing stage (max 1kN) which will allow us to stretch samples and image material changes in real time.

The microscope will be an added characterisation tool for research work in nanomaterials in areas

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such as water, food technology, biosciences and bioelectronics. This capability complements the University's recent joining of the Australian Nanofabrication Facility (ANFF) which has provided access to nanomaterial characterisation and fabrication facilities/expertise across Australia.



The main technical staff will comprise Larruceo (Larry) Bautista, team lead Stacey Lloyd, and Nishantha Illangantilaka. [SOURCE: SUPPLIED]

SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIES

How Electric Vehicles and Rooftop Solar are Changing the Supply of Power in Australia

The surge in demand for EVs will not affect the national grid, according to **Bruce Mountain**, director of the University's Victoria Energy Policy Centre.

Professor Mountain explains: 'It's amazing how much energy we use to heat our homes and hot water systems. The energy for our cars is much smaller and can be accommodated by the grid quite simply.' (*The Age*, 1 February)

The bi-directional Electric Vehicles anticipated by Mountain came to public notice a few months (*The Age*, 2 May). These feed power from the EV back into household solar systems.

Another problem for the uptake of EVs in Australia is the decision of certain jurisdictions to charge EV owners for each kilometre they drive. Although governments are naturally reluctant to forgo the income they receive from a petrol tax, the savings in public health alone will make EV ownership a net social benefit.

The other challenge, of course, is the need for more EV charging stations in public places, an infrastructure investment governments have been slow to make in Australia.

Professor Mountain: 'I would expect there would be a role of government to roll out infrastructure to generate confidence in the EV market – and that

is entirely within the capability of state budgets to do without big costs'. (*The Age*, 1 February)

In a recent development, householders might receive less for their solar power contributions to the national grid, in what looks to be a major disincentive to go solar. Australian families that sell their excess solar power to the grid will receive much less money for it than the Australian Energy Market Commission's calculation.

The AEMC's estimate is challenged by Professor Mountain. The AEMC proposal is set out in a Draft Rule Determination published on 25 March.



IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE CASE THAT THE AEMC HAS MADE AN ERROR IN ITS CALCULATIONS. ONCE CORRECTED THE IMPACT OF ITS PROPOSALS ON SOLAR HOMES IS LIKELY TO BE LARGE, NOT SMALL AS THE AEMC SUGGESTS. THE PRICE FOR NETWORK INJECTIONS THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE AEMC'S \$100 AVERAGE SOLAR HOME INJECTION PRICE IS AT LEAST 4 CENTS PER KWH AND POSSIBLY UP TO 4.9 CENTS PER KWH.



The AEMC case study of a 5 kW solar home presumes a \$100 network charge applies. This charge would necessitate an 'injection price' of 4.8 cents per kWh, not 2 cents per kWh as the AEMC suggests.

Using this corrected injection price, the typical

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solar-powered house in Victoria can expect to receive just \$32 per year for the surplus solar production that it feeds in to the grid once the revised regulated minimum feed-in rate takes effect from mid-2021.



Professor Bruce Mountain [SOURCE: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY]

For a typical 5 kW solar home in Sydney, the correct network injection charge increases from the \$100 per year that the AEMC claims, to \$240 per year. Much lower retailer feed-in rates in all regions of the NEM can be expected soon reflecting large declines in wholesale prices.

Taking account of the AEMC's corrected network injection price and much lower retailer feed-in prices, it is likely that at this price the great majority of solar homes in the National Electricity

Market will receive little or no income for the surplus solar production that they export to the grid.

A copy of the 19-page report is available at DOI: 10.26196/BJQ6-2694. This report is the latest in a series of research papers on rooftop solar power from the Victoria Energy Policy Centre.

PREVIOUS STORIES:

- ELECTRIC BLUES (AUGUST 2020)
- VICTORIA TAKES CHARGE OF ENERGY (APRIL 2020)

The Problems and Promise of Water in Bhutan

Research on his country's water supply undertaken in collaboration with his supervisor has earned a Victoria University student from Bhutan successful publication in the open-access journal, *Hydrology*. **Kelden Wangchuk** demonstrates that Bhutan's four leading economic activities fundamentally depend on water.

Bhutan is rich in water, but the resource needs to be much more carefully managed. The combination of poor water stewardship, urbanisation, and climate change spells disaster for this small, land-locked nation.

Bhutan's four main rivers and its 700 glaciers shape a country that is comprised of three quite

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distinct ecological zones: a subtropical south, central foothills of cold dry winters and warm humid summers, and an alpine north. Water is crucial for the hydroelectric power sold to India, commercial agriculture, tourism and secondary manufacturing, the four pillars of the Bhutanese economy.

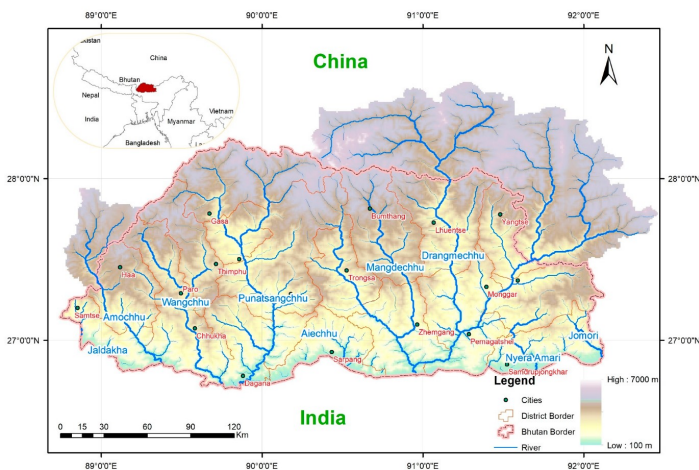


Figure 1: Location and hydrological features of Bhutan [SOURCE: HYDROSHED]

The policies and regulations controlling Bhutan’s water have developed in a piecemeal fashion over years. Without a coordinated management strategy, Bhutan is hostage to the environmental and climate challenges ahead.

Muhammas Atiq Ur Rehman Tariq, Kelden Wangchuk and Nitin Muttli, ‘A critical review of water resources and their management in Bhutan’, *Hydrology*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2021

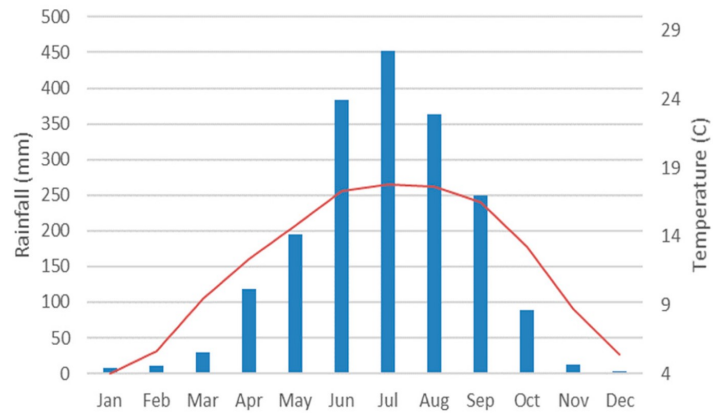


Figure 2: Average monthly temperature and rainfall of Bhutan [SOURCE: WORLD BANK]

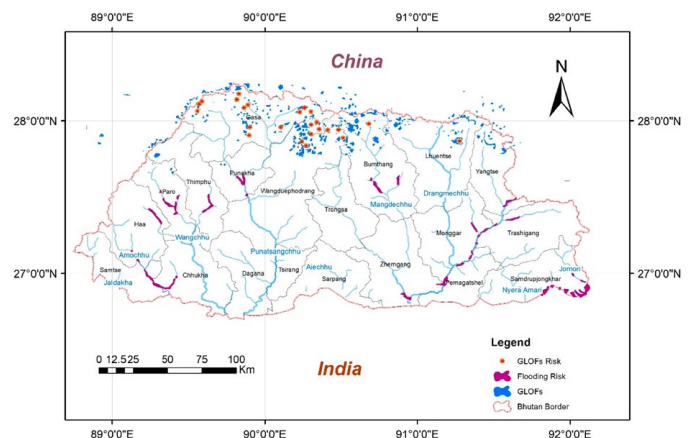


Figure 3: Areas in Bhutan prone to river flooding and glacial lake outbursts [SOURCE: NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION, BHUTAN]

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Figure 4: Bhutan's Mochu River flooded after the Lemthang glacial lake outburst of 2015 [SOURCE: KUENSEL]



Figure 5: In 2016, the town of Sarpang was completely washed away by monsoon floods [SOURCE: KUENSEL]

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

Congratulations to all colleagues promoted in the last round, including these two promoted to Academic Level D (Associate Professor / Principal Research Fellow): Dr **Cagil Ozansoy**, College of Engineering & Science, and Dr **Maurice Guerrieri**, Institute of Sustainable Industries & Liveable Cities; and also Associate Professor **Lidia Xynas**, College of Law & Justice, who was promoted to Academic Level E (Professor / Professorial Research Fellow).

At our planning day last December, we embarked on the process of designing a new research plan that would take us beyond 2021. We agreed that we use the UN Development Goals as a means of organising, classifying and reporting our research achievements as we expand our overall effort. Details to follow.

Farewell to Professor **Mark Farrell**, who joined Victoria University in 2018 as Dean of the Business School. He was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor (Business and Law) and Dean in 2019, overseeing both the Business School and College of Law & Justice.

And farewell to Professor **Michael Stuckey**, Dean of the College of Law & Justice, who left at the end of February, to take up the role of Dean and Head of the School of Law at the University of Tasmania. Professor Stuckey joined the University as Dean of the College of Law & Justice in 2017. He has been a highly valued member of the University's senior executive team and successfully led the College through the University's major transformation agenda,

including the introduction of our Block Model. As Dean, he has established a strong focus within the College on community legal service and outreach and engagement, in line with Victoria University's moral purpose.

Farewell also to Dr **Teresa De Fazio**, who left the University late last year. We thank her for her leadership in the cultural diversity program of the Institute. Amongst various initiatives she has instigated the development of the VU Cultural Diversity Dashboard which provides VU with rich student data to support planning and organisational processes; the establishment of staff and student Cultural Diversity Champions to facilitate Cultural Diversity work in various areas of the University; various innovative intercultural training programs for staff and students; a strong Cultural Diversity events program that showcases research, staff expertise, students and alumni; various initiatives for VU's Asylum Seeker and Refugee students; and relationships with community and multicultural organisations that will benefit VU long into the future.

Professor **Hua Wang** from ISILC has been selected as a member of the ARC College of Experts; the appointment as a member is for three years from 2021 to 2023. Hua currently is the discipline leader for Engineering and Science in ISILC, VU research. Since Hua joined VU in 2014, working with Professor **Yanchun Zhang** and Professor **Yuan Miao**, his team has received two ARC Linkage grants and three ARC Discovery grants.

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The ARC College of Experts play a key role in advancing knowledge and contributing to national innovation by identifying research excellence, moderating external assessments and recommending fundable proposals. They also assist the ARC in recruiting and assigning assessors and in implementing peer review reforms in established and emerging disciplines as well as interdisciplinary areas. Members of the ARC College of Experts assess and rank ARC grant applications submitted under the National Competitive Grants Program, make funding recommendations to the ARC and provide strategic advice to the ARC on emerging disciplines and cross-disciplinary developments.

ARC College of Expert members are experts of international standing drawn from the Australian research community: from higher education, industry and public sector research organisations.

Susan K. (Kathy) Land, 2021 IEEE President & CEO, writes: 'It is a pleasure to advise you that Hua Wang, a member of your organization, has been elevated to the grade of Senior Member of IEEE this year. Senior Member is the highest professional grade of IEEE for which a member may apply. It requires extensive experience, and reflects professional accomplishment and maturity. Only 10% of our more than 400,000 members have achieved this level. We are very pleased to have Hua Wang join the elite rank of IEEE Senior Members – both Hua Wang and you should be proud of the professional achievements that led to this recognition. We look forward to additional

contributions and successful projects and discoveries made by or associated with our new Senior Member.' We have to agree with the sentiment expressed here!



Professor Hua Wang [SOURCE: VICTORIA UNIVERSITY]

Neda Afzaliseresht is a PhD student supervised by Hua Wang and Professor **Yuan Miao**. Her team recently won the first place at the Digital Defence 2020, from among 2000 competitors from 15 countries.

See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW1ha_qZvTk&feature=youtu.be

There is plenty of good reading in the latest issue of the Victoria Business Confucius Institute, directed by Professor **Colin Clark** and **Associate Professor Claire Bei Wang**.

Go to: <https://mailchi.mp/a88f122ae39c/vbci-mar-newsletter?e=eefdb265c9>

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Congratulations on PhD student **Amber Hart** for getting her research into right-wing terrorism published in one of the leading journals in the field, *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Her argument is that Australian right-wing extremism and terrorism comes in the waves outlined by David C. Rapoport.

See: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546553.2020.1856818>

Kath Travis has had her biography of her grandmother accepted for publication in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*.

Lecturer in Law and Justice **Bill Swannie** was interviewed on NTIV in February regarding the controversy over white supremacists in the Grampians/Gariwerd. A group of neo-Nazis performed Ku Klux Klan rituals on sacred ground. 'I personally consider it offensive and I think most people would consider it offensive,' Mr Swannie said of the group's conduct at Gariwerd.

“BUT THE CRIMINAL LAW GENERALLY ONLY INTERVENES WHEN THERE’S LIKELY TO BE HARM TO A PERSON OR LIKELY TO BE HARM TO SOMEONE’S PROPERTY.”

See: https://www.sbs.com.au/nity/article/2021/02/05/calls-criminal-charges-against-white-supremacists-who-desecrated-country?fbclid=IwAR0zZEaHrDWUZ9BFVlnS3aRft_BJTgKY708FgG7IVvQLXZecxgpNBQ1ldlk



Robert French [SOURCE: SIMON FIELDHOUSE]

The Tuning Cymbal: Selected Papers and Speeches of Robert French, edited by **Robert Pascoe** and published by The Federation Press, is a noteworthy compilation of the ideas, reflections and, at times, subtle advocacy of one of Australia's most prolific jurists. It is a collection of 29 pieces which, as **Kevin Lindgren** explains in the publication's foreword, are drawn from no fewer than 94 published articles and speeches, 24 book chapters and 214 unpublished conference and seminar papers. Mirroring the broad intellectual interests of the former Chief Justice, the selected articles are grouped into diverse sets of topics, ranging from Indigenous issues through to competition law and legal education.

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Details: <https://barnews.nswbar.asn.au/summer-2020/reviews/>

The publication was sponsored by the Australian Academy of Law.

In January, Adjunct Professor **Valerie Margrain** gave an EDTalk at Seattle Pacific's School of Education on 'An Early Childhood Education Dialogue Exploring Globalization and Interculturality'.

Elsevier have published an article in *Energy Economics*, written by **Kelly Burns** and **Bruce Mountain** of the Victoria Energy Policy Centre.

Go to: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2020.105070>

Cameron Barrie, Research Services librarian, reports on how the Library is supporting our research this coming year:

Library support to the Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities (ISILC) continues and it is timely to outline who are the key contacts following some changes at the end of last year. I will be coordinating library services for the Institute, so please contact me directly at any time. Here is a summary of contacts:

Research support and training (staff & students) – **Cameron Barrie** and **Jessica Cork**; Peer-to-peer research support from the [Research Ambassador team](#) – **Van Nguyen**; **Kathleen Mikkelsen** and **Roopa Sreedhar**.

They are available to meet with individual research students or staff and run a program of training workshops throughout the year (available from the [Researcher Development Calendar](#)).



The new roof garden at Footscray Park Campus was featured in *The Age* on 19 February. Pictured were Gary Simpson, Brod Street, Anne Ng and Nitin Muttill, who all had a hand in the project. [Photograph: Paul Jeffers]

With easing of restrictions library spaces continue to open and a summary of campus opening hours and services is listed here. Students do not need permission to come onto campus, but staff will need permission to come onsite unless already approved for on-campus activities.

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

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| LOCATION | OPENING HOURS | SERVICES AVAILABLE | STAFFED CO-LOCATED SERVICES | SERVICES UNAVAILABLE |
|-------------------------|-------------------|---|------------------------------------|--|
| Libchat/ VSD & Infoline | Monday-Friday 9-5 | Online assistance | N/A | N/A |
| Footscray Park | Monday-Friday 9-5 | Library service desk Library collection including intercampus loans PCs Open-plan study areas DocSupply/ ILL Student laptop loans Level 4 postgrad lounge | VUHQ ITS Kiosk Learning Hubs | Group study rooms (due to social distancing) Massage chair |
| Footscray Nicholson | Monday-Friday 9-5 | Library service desk Library collection including intercampus loans PCs Open-plan study areas | VUHQ ITS Kiosk Learning Hubs | Group study rooms (due to social distancing) On-campus food outlets |

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

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| LOCATION | OPENING HOURS | SERVICES AVAILABLE | STAFFED CO-LOCATED SERVICES | SERVICES UNAVAILABLE |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| St Albans | Monday-Friday 9-5m | Library service desk Library collection including intercampus loans PCs Open-plan study areas | VUHQ ITS Kiosk Learning Hubs | Group study rooms (due to social distancing) On-campus food outlets |
| City Queen Law Library | Tuesday & Thursday 9-5 | Library service desk Library collection including intercampus loans PCs Open-plan study areas | N/A | Group study rooms (due to social distancing) |
| Werribee | Monday & Wednesday 9-5 | Library service desk Library collection including intercampus loans PCs Open-plan study areas | N/A | Group study rooms (due to social distancing) |

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR

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| LOCATION | OPENING HOURS | SERVICES AVAILABLE | STAFFED CO-LOCATED SERVICES | SERVICES UNAVAILABLE |
|---------------|---|--|-----------------------------|--|
| City Flinders | Level 15 not open to students/staff Level 9 Learning hub is open Monday-Friday 9-5 | Holds via intercampus loans PCs and study spaces (Level 9 only) | N/A | Library space open neither to students nor staff |

A/Prof Randall Robinson

Acting Director, Institute for Sustainable Industries and Liveable Cities

